

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a default operating system version and a default hardware configuration of a networked communications device in a first flash memory unit on said networked communications device, said default hardware configuration having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said default hardware configuration was received;

receiving an updated operating system version and an updated hardware configuration for said networked communications device over a network, wherein said updated hardware configuration and said updated operating system version are received into a second flash memory unit of said networked communications device including by erasing and rewriting said second flash memory unit independently of said first flash memory unit[,] ;

performing a checksum operation on said updated hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said updated hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said updated hardware configuration to indicate when said updated hardware configuration was received; and

programming a plurality of programmable logic units on said networked communications device according to said updated hardware configuration wherein said programming occurs ~~in conjunction with a boot process initiation~~ if said updated hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said default hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic units are coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is removably attached to said network communications device; and

disposing a CPU and a main memory of the network communication device on the removable card, such that the CPU and the main memory of the network communications device are coupled with the network communications device via the removable card.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said networked communications device is one of a router or a switch.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said default hardware configuration, wherein said processor creates said default hardware configuration using said configuration description; and

~~storing said default hardware configuration in a non-volatile memory~~  
comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration and initiating download of said updated hardware configuration upon request of said networked communications device based on low network usage.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said updated hardware configuration.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein said method further comprises comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration.

8. (Currently Amended) A networked communications device comprising:  
a bus;  
a memory unit coupled to said bus;  
a processor coupled to said bus, said processor executing a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device comprising:  
storing a default operating system version and a default hardware configuration of a networked communications device in a first flash memory unit on said networked

communications device, said default hardware configuration having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said default hardware configuration was received;

receiving an updated operating system version and an updated hardware configuration for said networked communications device over a network, wherein said updated hardware configuration and said updated operating system version are received into a second flash memory unit of said networked communications device, said second flash memory unit being erasable and rewritable independently of said first flash memory unit;

performing a checksum operation on said updated hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said updated hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said updated hardware configuration to indicate when said updated hardware configuration was received; and

programming a plurality of programmable logic units on said networked communications device according to said updated hardware configuration wherein said programming occurs ~~in conjunction with a boot process initiation~~ if said updated hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said default hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic units are coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is removably attached to said network communications device; and

disposing a CPU and a main memory of the network communication device on the removable card, such that the CPU and the main memory of the network communications device are coupled with the network communications device via the removable card.

9. (Previously Presented) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said networked communications device is one of a router or a switch.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications

device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said default hardware configuration, wherein said processor creates said default hardware configuration using said configuration description; and  
~~storing said default hardware configuration in a non-volatile memory~~  
comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration and initiating download of said updated hardware configuration upon request of said networked communications device based on low network usage.

12. (Original) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises verifying security information.

13. (Previously Presented) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said method further comprises configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said updated hardware configuration.

14. (Previously Presented) The networked communications device as recited in Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration.

15. (Currently Amended) Logic encoded in one or more tangible media for execution and when executed operable to:

storing a default operating system version and a default hardware configuration of a networked communications device in a first flash memory unit on said networked communications device, said default hardware configuration having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said default hardware configuration was received;

receiving an updated operating system version and an updated hardware configuration for said networked communications device over a network, wherein said updated hardware configuration and said updated operating system version are received into a second flash memory unit of said networked communications device including by erasing and rewriting said second flash memory unit independently of said first flash memory unit[.];

performing a checksum operation on said updated hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said updated hardware configuration;

creating a timestamp associated with said updated hardware configuration to indicate when said updated hardware configuration was received; and

programming a plurality of programmable logic units on said networked communications device according to said updated hardware configuration wherein said programming occurs ~~in conjunction with a boot process initiation~~ if said updated hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said default hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic units are coupled with said network communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is removably attached to said network communications device; and

disposing a CPU and a main memory of the network communication device on the removable card, such that the CPU and the main memory of the network communications device are coupled with the network communications device via the removable card.

16. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded as recited in Claim 15, wherein said networked communications device is one of a router or a switch.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The logic encoded as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise:

collecting information, wherein a component of said networked communications device sends a configuration description to a processor of said networked communications device;

creating said default hardware configuration, wherein said processor creates said default hardware configuration using said configuration description; and

~~storing said default hardware configuration in a non-volatile memory~~  
comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration and initiating download of said updated hardware configuration upon request of said networked communications device based on low network usage.

19. (previously presented) The logic encoded as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise verifying security information.

20. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded as recited in Claim 15, wherein said steps further comprise configuring said networked communications device with a schedule for initiating said receiving of said updated hardware configuration.

21. (Previously Presented) The logic encoded as recited in Claim 20, wherein said steps further comprise comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration.

22. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a means for storing a default operating system version and a default hardware configuration of a networked communications device in a first flash memory unit on said networked communications device, said default hardware configuration having an associated checksum and an associated timestamp indicating when said default hardware configuration was received;

a means for receiving an updated operating system version and an updated hardware configuration for said networked communications device over a network, wherein said updated hardware configuration and said updated operating system version are received into a second flash memory unit of said networked communications device including by erasing and rewriting said second flash memory unit independently of said first flash memory unit[.];

a means for performing a checksum operation on said updated hardware configuration to verify a received copy of said updated hardware configuration;

a means for creating a timestamp associated with said updated hardware configuration to indicate when said updated hardware configuration was received; and

a means for programming a plurality of programmable logic units on said networked communications device according to said updated hardware configuration wherein said programming occurs ~~in conjunction with a boot process initiation~~ if said updated hardware configuration has a correct checksum and a more recent associated timestamp than said default hardware configuration, wherein said programmable logic units are coupled with said network

communications device via a removable card, and wherein said removable card is removably attached to said network communications device; and

a means for disposing a CPU and a main memory of the network communication device on the removable card, such that the CPU and the main memory of the network communications device are coupled with the network communications device via the removable card.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said networked communications device is one of a router or a switch.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for collecting a configuration description of a component of said networked communications device ;

a means for using said configuration description in creating said default hardware configuration; and

~~a means for storing said default hardware configuration in non-volatile memory~~  
a means for comparing said default hardware configuration with said updated hardware configuration and initiating download of said updated hardware configuration upon request of said networked communications device based on low network usage.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 22, further comprising a means for verifying security information.